

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

SECURITY THREATS TO CANADA'S 44th ELECTIONS – UPDATE #6

This assessment is intended to provide situational awareness of domestic security-related threats to Canada's 44th general elections. The information in this assessment is based on reporting from the RCMP Combined Intelligence Group, law enforcement partners, searches against RCMP holdings, and open source resources (Information current as of 16 September, 2021, 1100hrs). The IMCIT continues to maintain visibility on emerging threats and will provide updates as required.

KEY POINTS

- Threats specifically directed towards the Prime Minister (PM) continue.
- Given the number of conflicts that occurred during advanced polling, it is likely that polling stations throughout Canada will experience disruptions on election day.
- Ideologically motivated individuals who have attended Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) campaign events will likely be in attendance at "World Wide Rally For Freedom" events taking place in multiple Canadian cities on 18 September, 2021.
- There are a number of factors that may contribute to election fraud narratives after the election concludes on 20 September, 2021, including inaccurate polls circulating online and concerns over the integrity of mail-in ballots.

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the current domestic threat environment related to Canada's 44th general elections as of 16 September, 2021.

THREATS TO PROTECTED PERSONS

Threats to Protected Persons continue. In the last 24 hours, a number of incidents have occurred:

- On 15 September, 2021, the Ottawa office of a Toronto-based newspaper received an email containing indirect threats of violence towards the PM.¹

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Federal Policing National Intelligence – Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

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- On the same day, a post on Facebook was reported for containing violent comments and indirect threats towards the PM; the post has since been deleted.² A post containing an indirect threat against the PM was also reported on Twitter.³
- The RCMP received a tip regarding an individual who was demonstrating signs of increasing radicalization. The caller noted that the individual harbours anti-vaccination views, wishes to die for the People's Party of Canada (PPC) if they do not win, and wants to kill the PM.⁴

The RCMP continues to track and assess all such threats and engages with applicable security and law enforcement partners as required.

THREATS TO THE POLLING STATIONS

IMCIT currently does not possess any information that suggests individuals are advocating for violence on election day. However, given the number of incidents that occurred from 10 to 13 September at advanced polling stations, the potential exists for polling disruptions throughout Canada on 20 September, 2021.

In anticipation of addressing anti-vaccine and anti-mask protesters, s.37

s.37

s.37

It is anticipated the RCMP and applicable Police of Jurisdiction will receive a surge in calls for assistance on election day.

s.37

s.37

The IMCIT assesses that, regardless of the election outcome, individuals who have been vocal in the anti-vaccine, anti-lockdown, and anti-mask domain will likely criticize the voting integrity process, including the mail-in voting option. Recent news reports indicate there could be a duration of five days between election day and the announcement of the winning party due to an increased volume of mail-in ballots.⁶ This, in turn, could amplify discussions related to election integrity.

PUBLIC ORDER EVENTS

Social media platforms^a related to anti-vaccine, anti-lockdown, and anti-mask themes continue to promote the "World Wide Rally For Freedom" event⁷ taking place internationally on 18 September, including in multiple Canadian cities.⁸ Aside from Toronto⁹, no additional public order events opposing this event have been identified. However, it is likely events in other Canadian cities may be met with small groups in opposition. The presence of counter-protests increases the possibility of violence at these events.

A "peaceful protest rally" outside the CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto, ON is planned for 16 September and is circulating on social media pages that have previously promoted protests aimed at LPC campaign events. This protest will be attended by PPC leader Maxime BERNIER, who is currently advertising the

^a Social media includes Facebook, s.37 Twitter, Instagram, Gab, etc.

event on his verified^b Twitter account with the hashtag “DefundCBC”.¹⁰ The screen capture below is from Twitter.

It is important to note that a longstanding grievance of individuals involved in anti-vaccine, anti-mask, and anti-lockdown organizing has been a perception that the mainstream media censors the “truth”. They believe the media inflates COVID-19 cases and fails to report on large turnouts at various rallies opposing public health measures that have occurred in Canada during various periods of lockdown.



Based on the social media posts, conspiratorial signage at recent events, and the presence of ideologically-linked individuals at previous anti-LPC and anti-vaccine protests, it is anticipated that ideologically-motivated individuals^c will attend these upcoming rallies and protests. However, it is important point out that anti-vaccine, anti-lockdown and anti-mask events of this nature have also attracted individuals that are not aligned with any specific ideology or group, but who have experienced personal hardships due to COVID-19.

SOCIAL MEDIA - THE PAST 24HRS

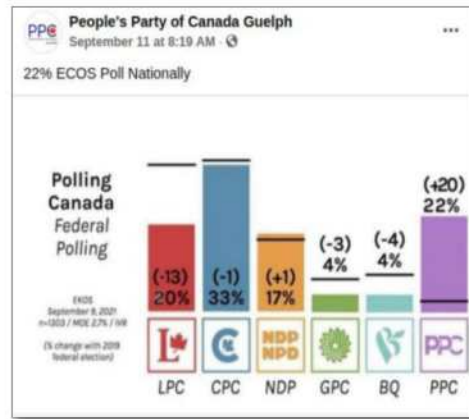
Open source information collected in the last twenty four hours suggests that racially motivated individuals have posted messages in support of the PPC. One individual, who self-describes as the National Chairman of the Canadian Nationalist Front,^{11d} has been posting their support on s.37 ¹² Another individual, who self-describes as the Director of the Canadian Association for Free Expression and the Canadian First Immigration Reform Committee,¹³ has also posted their support.¹⁴

Information suggesting fabricated polls regarding the PPC’s popularity has been circulating on social media.¹⁵ The IMCIT has identified polls online (which have circulated throughout the election period) that show higher numbers of support for the PPC than other credible polling outlets, such as Nanos. In some instances, these inflated polls have been posted on pages which have advertised rallies opposing public health measures and promoted content considered conspiratorial in nature.¹⁶ In addition, a poll was identified on a social media page which appears to be associated to a specific PPC Ontario candidate.¹⁷ Screen captures below are taken from Facebook.

^b The blue Verified badge on Twitter lets people know that an account of public interest is authentic. To receive the blue badge, your account must be authentic, notable, and active. <https://help.twitter.com/en/managing-your-account/about-twitter-verified-accounts#:~:text=The%20blue%20Verified%20badge%20on,authentic%2C%20notable%2C%20and%20active>

^c The presence of ideologically motivated individuals does not necessarily mean ideologically motivated criminality or ideologically motivated violence. The non-criminal ideologically motivated space includes expressions of racism, bigotry, misogyny, and individuals engaging in lawful protests.

^d The Canadian Nationalist Front self describes as a Nationalist Patriot organization. The organization is very small but has been supportive of groups such as the Proud Boys over the years, held “white pride” rallies in Ontario and the National Chairman was investigated for an online statement against immigrants, aid workers and journalists after the Christchurch mosque incident. <https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/2019/03/19/peterborough-white-nationalist-kevin-goudreau-denies-posting-call-for-violence-in-wake-of-new-zealand-shooting.html>



While it is unclear from where these polls originate, the circulation of such content may fuel accusations of election fraud and conspiracy narratives after the election period concludes. Social media pages that have promoted anti-LPC campaign event protests have been posting photos and videos of recent PPC campaign events with large crowds. Recent news reports have also indicated an increase in support for the PPC since the start of the election, though these reports do not indicate the PPC will win significant ridings.¹⁸ The IMCIT assesses that regardless of the election outcomes, there will likely be claims of election fraud.

The RCMP continues to track and assess public order and public safety threats and engages with applicable security and law enforcement partners as required.

Distribution List

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Issued by: Ideologically Motivated Criminal Intelligence Team (IMCIT)

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¹ RCMP Holdings

² RCMP Holdings

³ RCMP Holdings

⁴ RCMP Holdings

⁵ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/federal-election-2021/markings-ballots-with-pencils-does-not-increase-the-risk-of-election-fraud-1.5583896>

⁶ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/federal-election-2021/elections-canada-says-it-could-take-up-to-5-days-to-count-every-last-ballot-1.5586355>

⁷ <https://worldwidedemonstration.com>

⁸ <https://www.canadaforfreedom.info>

⁹ <https://twitter.com/RandalOulton/status/1437849457861791755>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/MaximeBernier/status/1438486181453434881>

¹¹ Personal Info. [REDACTED]

¹² <https://twitter.com/nolifeneet/status/1438302585124016131>

¹³ <https://twitter.com/frommpaul>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/FrommPaul/status/1438170887421927426>

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/antihateca/status/1438316492110581762>

¹⁶ <https://awakecanada.org/ppc-party-is-being-banned/>

¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/ppcguelph/photos/2758197024470734>

¹⁸ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/federal-election-2021/with-gains-across-the-country-the-ppc-could-be-a-potential-spoiler-in-the-election-nanos-1.5586704>

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